



## **Memorials Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

3:30 P.M.

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

City Hall

715 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg, Virginia

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The Memorials Advisory Commission of the City of Fredericksburg met on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, beginning at 3:30 p.m., in the second-floor conference room of City Hall.

### **Commission Attendees:**

Emerson, Claudia	Absent
Garnett, Richard	Present
Huff, Benjamin Josiah	Present
Lloyd, Marilyn Holasek	Present
Moore, Nancy	Present
Pates, Jim – Chair	Present
Warlick, Conrad	Present

**Election of Officers for 2012** – Chairman Pates indicated that the first order of business for 2012 needed to be the election of officers for the year. Upon a request for nominations, Commissioner Garnett moved that the officers for the new year be: Jim Pates, Chair; B. J. Huff, Vice-Chair; and Marilyn Lloyd, Secretary. With no other nominations being offered, the candidates were elected by unanimous consent.

**Meeting Minutes** - Commissioner Warlick moved adoption of the minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting. They were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Old Business:**

**Mary Washington Monument Property** - Chairman Pates elaborated on the historical significance of the Mary Washington Monument and gave a brief history of the women's movement to preserve the gravesite. In 1833, President Andrew Jackson dedicated the first monument to the mother of Washington on this site. That monument, never completed, lay derelict and in pieces for almost sixty years. In 1890, the National Mary Washington Monument

Association was established for the purpose of rescuing the property and completing the erection of a monument. That same year, the Daughters of the American Revolution was also founded and adopted the monument as one of its first projects. The remains of the earlier monument were removed in 1893 when the cornerstone for the present monument was laid and dedicated by President Grover Cleveland in 1894. The caretaker's cottage, known as "the Lodge," was built in 1896.

Chairman Pates reported that he had spoken with Mr. Antozzi, the City's Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities, about repairs to the Lodge and the Gordon family cemetery. There was general discussion about the projected cost of the repairs, including a new roof on the Lodge, and about the intention of the George Washington Foundation to surrender its lease of the Lodge and turn over possession to the City by the end of February.

Chairman Pates also shared with the Commission the recently completed survey of the 3.6584-acre site, which shows two playground areas currently located on the property. There was further discussion about the need for improved interpretation of the site and the possibility of the Commission helping to raise funds for appropriate signage or markers. The Commission made tentative plans to tour the inside of the Lodge next month after it becomes vacant..

The Commission directed the Chair to make a report to City Council, indicating that the Commission appreciates the Council's recent adoption of the ordinance charging the Commission with fulfilling the City's obligations under the 1966 deed of gift, that the site has national significance and warrants greater public attention, that the entire four-acre site should be kept intact, that the Commission hopes to develop a long-range plan for the property consistent with the intents of the original gift, and that the Commission looks forward to working with Council on this important project.

Commissioner Moore suggested that the Commission may want to consider contacting the Historic Preservation Department at UMW to assist in developing a range of ideas and improvements consistent with the original gift.

**Wall of Honor** – There was general discussion about the Wall of Honor, including the need to have a more formal ceremony and reception for this year's dedication event. There was consensus that the best time for the ceremony would be September, with a June 1st deadline for applications. Chairman Pates indicated he would revise the application form and submit it to the City Clerk for posting on the website.

**Memorials Commission Website** - Chairman Pates asked for a volunteer to be in charge of rewriting the Commission's web page, particularly as it relates to the Wall of Honor. Commissioner Lloyd volunteered for the project, which would include the posting of a revised application form, the background history of the Wall of Honor, and other general information about the work of the Commission

**Memorials Fund** – The Commission continued discussion of a Memorials Fund of the Memorials Advisory Commission, to solicit donations and use them to support the Commission's work. Commissioner Moore made the motion, seconded by Commissioner

Warlick, to establish a memorials fund with the City Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Lloyd indicated she would follow up with the City's Director of Fiscal Affairs, Mr. Clarence Robinson.

**Historic Markers** – The Commission discussed encouraging the City to move ahead with refurbishing the historic markers already in place that are in need of repair and installing ones that are ready to be erected. The Commission directed the Chair to contact the City Manager to inquire whether there was adequate funding in next year's budget for the existing wayside panels to be properly installed, maintained, and replaced.

**Civil Rights Memorial** – The Commission continued discussion about the possibility of the City undertaking some type of commemoration or tribute to the local civil rights movement. Commissioner Garnett indicated he would follow up with Mr. Clarence Robinson and Ms. Marguerite Young to brainstorm possible alternatives. It was suggested that someone skilled in conducting interviews make contact with HFFI, the Fredericksburg Area Museum, and the Heritage Center, about undertaking oral histories of local civil rights activists.

**Irish Brigade Monument** – Chairman Pates reported that he had sent a letter to Council with the Commission's recommendation that the City not designate the Irish Brigade marker at the City Dock as a permanent war memorial, since the City might wish to make use of this location for other public purposes in the future.

**New Business:**

**Matthew Fontaine Maury** – The Commission discussed an inquiry the Chair recently received from Mr. Erik Nelson in the City's Planning Department regarding the existing Mathew Fontaine Maury marker at the corner of Charlotte and Littlepage Streets. The inquiry related to whether the existing marker should be improved or replaced. Commission Moore volunteered to take a look at the plaque, take pictures, and make some further inquiries about its status.

**Meetings Scheduled** - The regular meetings for 2012 were scheduled for April 18, July 18 and October 17.

**Meeting Adjourned** - There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

  
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Marilyn H. Lloyd, Secretary

